



# AKRON

Central School District

Budget Issue 2024

## ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

NOON - 9:00PM

GYM 3

Adjacent to the Upper HS Parking Lot

**Voter Qualifications:** You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and a resident within the Akron Central School District for a period of 30 days prior to the vote. Please bring identification.

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Success with chopsticks at the Chinese New Year event



50th day of school for Kindergarten



Bank on Buffalo Financial Literacy Fair



Fabricating cutting boards in HS Woodshop



Our Indigenous students shine as they demonstrate social dances



Santa's Helpers Band members perform during Light Up Akron at Russell Park

## Budget Vote • Tuesday, May 21, 2024

# #OneAkron

[www.akronschools.org](http://www.akronschools.org)

# Akron Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$36,221,866	\$43,926,821	\$43,388,798
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$7,704,955	\$7,166,932
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		21.27 %	19.79%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
<b>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>			
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,270,070	\$10,475,471	
<b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>			
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$ 0	
<b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</b>			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$ 0	
<b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$ 0	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$10,270,070</b>	<b>\$10,475,471</b>	<b>\$10,270,070</b>
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>			
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$395,718	\$ 411,125	
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>			
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$11,417,634	\$10,456,277	
<b>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b>			
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$9,874,352	\$10,064,346	
<b>I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</b>			
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,543,282	\$391,931	
<b>Administrative Component</b>			
Administrative Component	\$4,063,465	\$4,217,122	\$4,122,912
<b>Program Component</b>			
Program Component	\$25,517,910	\$25,983,835	\$25,883,723
<b>Capital Component</b>			
Capital Component	\$6,640,491	\$13,725,864	\$13,382,163

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A contingent budget for 2024-25 is anticipated to result in a decrease of \$238,412 in contingent equipment expenditures. Other non-contingent expenditure lines that total \$299,611 will also be reduced if necessary. Final contingent budget decisions will be made by the Board of Education in late June if required.

\*\* List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Purchase and Financing of School Buses	\$534,000

\*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS:

Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$313

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the AKRON CENTRAL school district, ERIE County, New York, will be held at the High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00PM and 9:00pm, prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

# A Message from our Board President & Superintendent

On behalf of the Board of Education and our faculty and staff, thank you for your ongoing support of our students and the mission of our school district. The partnerships we enjoy with our families and the wider Akron community are invaluable to the success of our District.

This budget newsletter aims to offer a clear view of the 2024-25 school budget and its role in maintaining and enhancing the educational services, programs, and opportunities we have planned for our students. We trust you will find this information valuable.

Our budget reflects the operational costs and the revenue sources necessary to run the District, including personnel, transportation, facilities, food service, extracurricular activities, technology, and of course, instruction.

Key objectives shaped the proposed budget for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Uphold conservative financial planning to preserve educational quality, staffing, facility maintenance, and a healthy fund balance
- Minimize tax increases
- Advance the goals of the District Strategic Plan
- Collaboratively focus on long-term fiscal planning
- Engage community stakeholders to develop the budget and communicate financial needs transparently

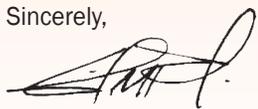
The District proposes a 2% budget increase to the tax levy, which remains well below the District's Tax Cap and is crafted to sustain educational excellence and prudent financial management. It supports educational programs aligned with New York State learning standards, caters to student interests, addresses current educational needs, and uses data-driven approaches to enhance learning.

The budget proposal includes two new lifeguard positions to support the restoration of swim instruction across all school levels. Additional budget highlights include launching an eSports program at the Middle and High Schools following this year's pilot program, replacing musical instruments, and continuing professional development designed to encourage more student engagement, success, and love of learning.

As part of our ongoing bus replacement strategy, a proposition to acquire two new 66-passenger buses and two smaller buses is placed before voters. This supports the District's plan to provide a reliable and safe fleet while avoiding the steep cost of mass replacements.

The Budget Hearing is Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 PM in the Edward Allen Auditorium and can be live-streamed via YouTube from our website link. The annual Budget Vote is May 21st from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Gym 3. For absentee ballot inquiries, please contact the District Office at (716)542-5006 or email [districtclerk@akronk12.org](mailto:districtclerk@akronk12.org). Visit our website for further details on absentee ballot deadlines and procedures.

Sincerely,



Erik Polkowski  
Board of Education President



Andrea S. Kersten  
Superintendent of Schools



Erik Polkowski  
President, Board  
of Education



Andrea S. Kersten  
Superintendent



Living Environment students try out smartphone microscopes



Grade 4 mini Thanksgiving parade balloons



MS students teach kindergarteners to use Ozobots



Elementary students are rewarded with a puppy visit for donating to SantaPAWS

# #One Akron

# Photo highlights of another exciting school year at Ak

We have much to be proud of at Akron Schools in the 2023-24 school year! Our photos show just a sampling of the many events and opportunities galleries and stories about the accomplishments of our students and the faculty and staff who strive to provide enriching educational experiences



Staff member selfie during Superintendent's Conference Day



Annual Halloween costume parade



Tiger mascot greets our students



Cross Training led HS student leadership event



Grade 4 students in Octagon House cupola



Elementary artists with their snowmen



Elementary Homegrown assemblies are educational and fun!

es that demonstrate engaged learning in the classroom and beyond. Visit our website at [akronschools.org](http://akronschools.org) or our Facebook page for more photos every day.



Students try their hand at bricklaying during Construction Day



FBI Agent helps senior with tactical vest



Kareem Weaver, National Literacy Advocate, presents to teachers and community



Mobile Planetarium provides lesson on solar eclipse



Mamma Mia! hit the Akron stage for the first time to rave reviews!



WKBW Ch. 7 interview with Personal Finance students



Kin-Ball is new to HS PE classes



Field Hockey earns trip to Final Four State Championship

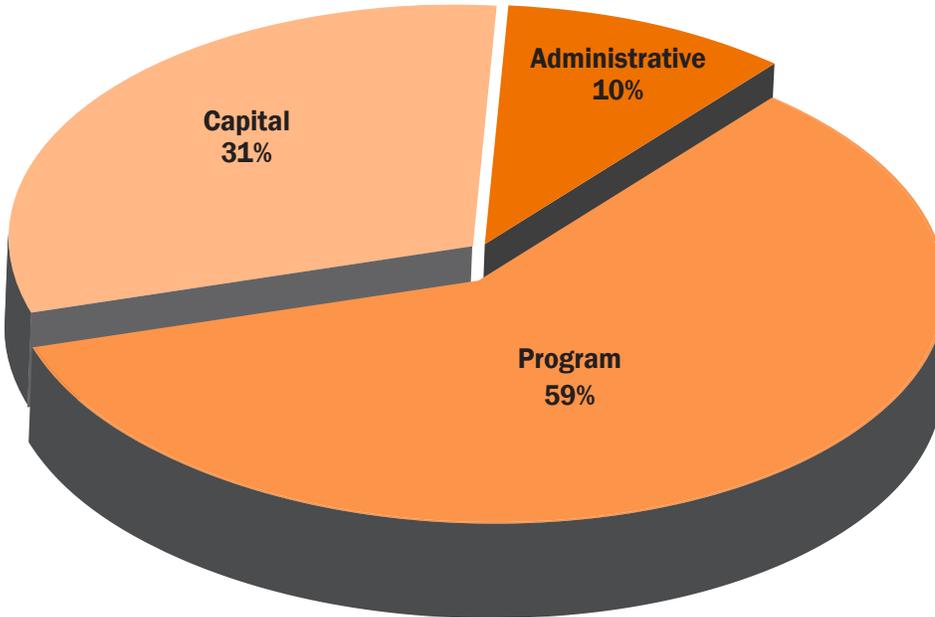


Rotary Interact Club joins Newstead Seniors to make blankets for Roswell patients

# 2024-2025 General Fund Appropriations

## Tripartite Budget

Total: \$43,926,821



Thank you Akron & Newstead Fire Companies for fire safety lessons



Boat building skills get tested at the MS Cardboard Boat Race

	Adopted 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	\$ Change
<b>Administrative Component</b>			
Board of Education/District Clerk	\$ 42,400	\$ 49,468	\$ 7,068
Central Office/District Services	\$ 1,531,252	\$ 1,629,725	\$ 98,473
Legal & Personnel	\$ 215,410	\$ 223,500	\$ 8,090
Instructional Administration	\$ 1,395,918	\$ 1,460,228	\$ 64,310
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 878,485	\$ 854,201	\$ (24,284)
	\$ 4,063,465	\$ 4,217,122	\$ 153,657
<b>Program Component</b>			
Instruction	\$ 11,081,077	\$ 11,415,838	\$ 334,761
Exceptional Education	\$ 5,694,487	\$ 5,705,315	\$ 10,828
Co-Curricular & Athletics	\$ 795,074	\$ 873,594	\$ 78,520
Transportation	\$ 1,692,132	\$ 1,854,877	\$ 162,745
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 6,255,140	\$ 6,134,211	\$ (120,929)
	\$ 25,517,910	\$ 25,983,835	\$ 465,925
<b>Capital Component</b>			
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 2,515,299	\$ 2,647,331	\$ 132,032
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$ 3,503,092	\$ 3,555,833	\$ 52,741
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$ -	\$ 6,886,629	\$ 6,886,629
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 622,100	\$ 636,071	\$ 13,971
	\$ 6,640,491	\$ 13,725,864	\$ 7,085,373
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$ 36,221,866	\$ 43,926,821	\$ 7,704,955



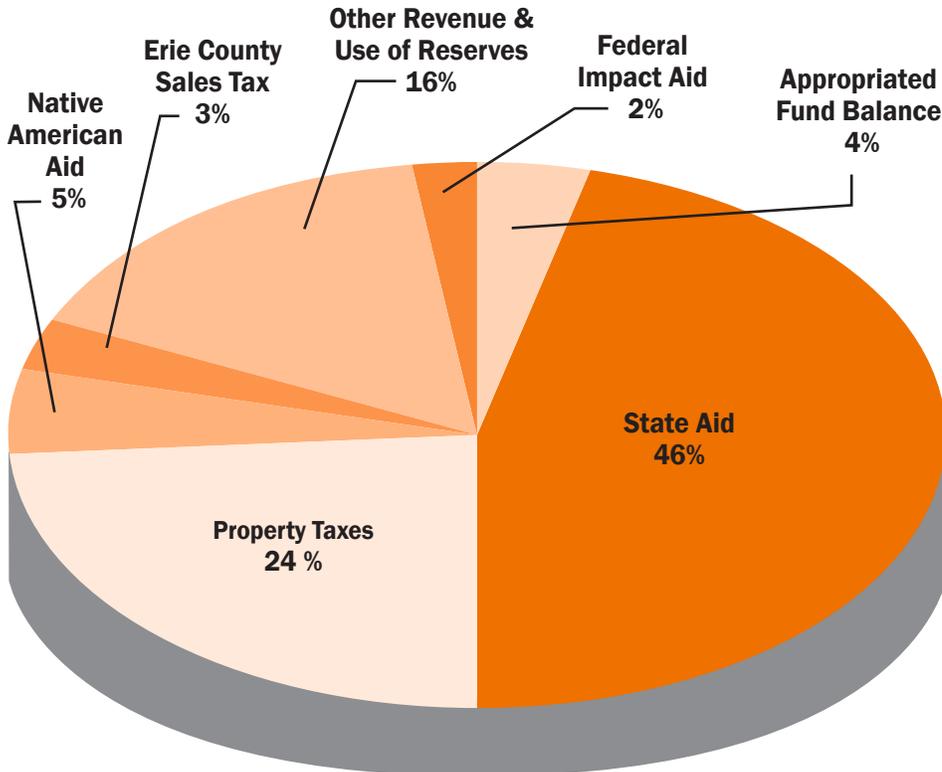
Third graders get their hands on a boa from Nickel City Reptiles & Exotics



HS students learn Hands-Only CPR



# 2024-2025 Proposed General Fund Revenues



## Contingent Budget Spending

Contingency budget estimates are based on Section 2023 of the Education Law. A contingent budget for Akron CSD for 2024-25 is anticipated to result in a decrease of approximately \$538,023 from the original budget of \$43,926,821.

Under a contingency budget, state law allows a school district to operate the regular instructional program, preserve the health and safety of students and staff, and protect the district's property. Districts are prohibited from spending money on items such as new equipment or nonessential maintenance projects. In addition, a district would be required to charge for public use of their facilities, except when there is no cost to the district.

	Adopted 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	\$ Change
<b>State Aid:</b>			
Foundation Aid/General Aid	\$ 11,343,161	\$ 11,546,649	\$ 203,488
Excess Cost Aid	\$ 643,696	\$ 732,348	\$ 88,652
BOCES	\$ 1,405,271	\$ 1,541,387	\$ 136,116
Hardware and Technology	\$ 22,236	\$ 21,129	\$ (1,107)
Textbook, Software, Library	\$ 102,761	\$ 99,677	\$ (3,084)
Transportation	\$ 1,427,218	\$ 1,656,711	\$ 229,493
Building	\$ 2,915,748	\$ 2,894,694	\$ (21,054)
Native American Building Aid	\$ -	\$ 1,717,998	\$ 1,717,998
	<b>\$ 17,860,091</b>	<b>\$ 20,210,593</b>	<b>\$ 2,350,502</b>
<b>Other Revenue:</b>			
Native American Aid	\$ 2,474,000	\$ 2,074,000	\$ (400,000)
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 200,000
Federal Impact Aid	\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000	\$ -
Other Revenues	\$ 617,705	\$ 958,126	\$ 340,421
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 1,940,000	\$ (160,000)
Use of Reserves/Transfers In	\$ 950,000	\$ 6,118,631	\$ 5,168,631
	<b>\$ 8,091,705</b>	<b>\$ 13,240,757</b>	<b>\$ 5,149,052</b>
<b>Real Property Tax Levy:</b>	<b>\$ 10,270,070</b>	<b>\$ 10,475,471</b>	<b>\$ 205,401</b>
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$ 36,221,866</b>	<b>\$ 43,926,821</b>	<b>\$ 7,704,955</b>



MS students test the integrity of their gummy bear and toothpick structures



Rotary Interact Club holds vision clinic on service trip in Dominican Republic

## STAR Program Information

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) provides New York homeowners with partial exemptions from school property taxes. For information on how the relief program works or how calculations are made, please contact the Town of Newstead Assessor's Office, 5 Clarence Center Road, P.O. Box 227, Akron, NY 14001 or call (716) 542-5473 Option 4 or visit [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star).

**Akron Central School**

47 Bloomingdale Avenue  
Akron, NY 14001

**Board of Education**

Erik Polkowski, President  
Phillip Kenline, Vice President  
Ryan Allen  
Heather Cayea  
Joseph P. Cena  
Stephanie Coffta  
Kristy Pingitore

**Superintendent of Schools**

Andrea S. Kersten

[www.akronschools.org](http://www.akronschools.org)

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**SAMPLE BALLOT**

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**  
**2024-2025 Budget**

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Akron Central School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted, and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated, and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

YES  NO

**Board of Education Members**

Two (2) Seats Vacant

The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) at-large vacancies. All seats are for three (3) year terms, 7/1/24-6/30/27.

**VOTE FOR ANY TWO**

Phillip Kenline  
Charles Roggen  
Erik Polkowski

**PROPOSITION NO. 2**

**Acquisition of School Buses (and Related Equipment)**

Shall the following resolutions be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Akron Central School District, Erie, Genesee and Niagara Counties, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to purchase school buses and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program of the District, including two (2) sixty-six (66) passenger buses, at an estimated maximum cost of \$165,000 each and two (2) van-type buses, at an estimated maximum cost of \$102,000, (with such estimated maximum cost reflecting the value of any trade-ins), and to expend therefor an aggregate sum not to exceed \$534,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$534,000 (which may include certain up-front financing costs), plus an amount for interest thereon, shall be funded by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in anticipation of such tax, bonds or other obligations (including, without limitation, obligations arising under leases, lease/purchase contracts or installment purchase contracts having a term of not more than five years) of the District shall be issued or entered into in accordance with applicable provisions of New York State law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State Transportation Aid funds expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

YES  NO

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024 • 12:00 Noon - 9:00PM**

**High School Gymnasium #3 (Orange Gym)**